

Coutts Border Crossing Demonstration – Participant Information Sheet

ROLE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law enforcement will be present for the duration of the demonstration/protest event. The role of law enforcement is:

- To ensure participants can safely and lawfully gather for the purpose of peaceful protest.
- Protection of life and property.
- To uphold the law and maintain public order.

It is not the position of law enforcement to prevent planned events, but to ensure open lines of communication are present with all parties to ensure peaceful gatherings while maintaining safety and promoting freedom of mobility for all.

ROLE OF BORDER PATROL, s.38 and CANADA BORDER SERVICES AGENCY

Border services agencies are responsible for border integrity, screening of individuals or goods entering the country, and enforcement of customs and immigration acts. In anticipation of this event, US Border Patrol and enforcement agencies have been consulted. No unlawful entry into the US will be permitted. Participants who do not have a lawful purpose to enter the US will not be permitted entry. Those involved in violation of the law or entry requirements may be subject to an exclusion. If imposed, future travel into the US will be affected and excluded persons may be subject to the waiver process before any future travel into the US is permitted.

Existing entry requirements for those who are not US citizens or permanent residents include proof of full vaccination. Further information can be found at <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2021/10/29/fact-sheet-guidance-travelers-enter-us-land-ports-entry-and-ferry-terminals>

GUIDANCE FOR THIS EVENT

1. Participants should avoid approaching the border crossing or congesting the area as there is limited space to turn around, particularly for larger vehicles. Congestion or full blockage of the area has the potential to create health hazards for participants with unavailability of fuel, food, water, or restroom facilities. The ability to evacuate persons caught in this area will be limited and may take an extended period of time to resolve. Emergency response agencies are not equipped to nor will they bring food, water, or fuel.
2. s.38
3. It is unlawful to block or stop traffic on a Highway in Alberta. *Section 43(4) Use of the Highway and Rules of the Road Regulation (UHRRR).*

4. It is unlawful to ...*wilfully obstruct, interrupt or interfere with the construction, maintenance, use or operation of any essential infrastructure in a manner that renders the essential infrastructure dangerous, useless, inoperative or ineffective.* Sec. 2(3) Critical Infrastructure Defence Act. A Highway is considered essential infrastructure. Anyone who actively blocks a highway may be subject to arrest and charge under this act. Anyone who aids, counsels, or directs a highway to be blocked may also be subject to charge under this act.
5. Full blockage of the highway would restrict or prevent response to emergencies such as medical, fire, collisions, or criminal events. You do not want to contribute to the potential harm of others.
6. It is the position of law enforcement that traffic flow remain open. Slowing traffic to bring attention to participants cause should be considered in lieu of blocking traffic. At least one lane in each direction should remain open to allow for emergency response, flow of traffic for area residents wanting to go home, those who are employed on either side of the border, and to permit movement of lawful traffic across the border (ie. Live animal transports, essential travel, etc.).
7. Emergency response agencies will assist with movement of vehicles or traffic flow in this event to support a peaceful and lawful protest and to prevent full blockage or situations where participants may be placed in an unsafe situation.
8. The RCMP Community Conflict Management Group (CCMG) members will be present to facilitate communication between all groups. These members are police officers who may or may not be in uniform. They will have RCMP identification which can be produced upon request. Event organizers will have contact information for the CCMG members.